Minutes of the proceedings
of the clergy and lay delegates
of the Protestant Episcopal
Churches of North-Carolina
convened by appointment, this
24th day of April, 1817

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MINUTES

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

CLERGY AND LAY DELEGATES

OF THE

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCHES OF NORTH-CAROLINA,

CONVENED BY APPOINTMENT, THIS 24TH DAY OF APRIL, 1817,

IN CHRIST'S CHURCH

IN THE TOWN OF NEWBERN.

FAYETTEVILLE:

PRINTED AT THE OBSERVER OFFICE.

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MINUTES, &c.

Present—the Rev. Bethel Judd, Rector of St. John's Church, Fayetteville; the Rev. J. Curtis Clay, Rector of Christ's Church, Newbern; the Rev. Adam Empie, Rector of St. James' Church, Wilmington; John Stanley and John S. West, Esquires, Delegates from Christ's Church, Newbern; John Winslow, Esq. Delegate from St. John's Church, Fayetteville; Josiah Collins, jun. Esq. Representative from St. Paul's Church, Edenton; John R. London and Marsden Campbell, Esq's. Delegates from St. James' Church, Wilmington.

On motion, the Rev. Mr. Judd was appointed Chairman, and the Rev. Mr. Empie, Secretary.

On motion, *Resolved*, that the Rev. Mr. Clay be requested to perform divine service, and the Rev. Mr. Judd to deliver a Sermon this forenoon.

On motion, *Resolved*, that the Rev. Mr. Judd, the Rev. Mr. Clay, and the Rev. Mr. Empie, together with Mr. John Stanley and Mr. John R. London, be appointed a committee, to draw up and present to this meeting, a Constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church of this State.

Adjourned until one o'clock.

Divine service having been performed, the Clergy and Lay Delegates convened according to adjournment, the committee presented the following

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. The Protestant Episcopal Church in this State, accedes to, recognizes and adopts the general Constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States, and acknowledges its authority accordingly.

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2. There shall be an annual convention of this Church, on the second Thursday after Easter, at such place as shall be fixed by each preceding convention.

3. The convention shall be composed of such regularly ordained ministers as are settled in this State —such as are employed as professors or instructors of youth in incorporated seminaries—of such as are missionaries of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and of one or more Lay Delegates, for each Church, chosen by the Vestry or Congregation thereof.

4. Every convention shall be opened with prayer and a sermon; and the preacher shall be nominated by the ecclesiastical authority of the church.

5. A president shall be annually appointed, who shall preside in all meetings of the convention, except when a Bishop shall be present, who shall, ex officio, be president of said convention.

6. A secretary shall be annually chosen, whose duty it shall be to keep a record of the proceedings, and to give due notice to each minister and vestry, of the time and place of the next meeting of the convention.

7. A standing committee shall be annually chosen, of not less than three or more than seven persons, who shall have power to admit candidates for the ministry; and until a Bishop shall have been appointed, to examine the testimonials of foreign clergymen, to call special meetings of the convention, and to transact all such other business as they are empowered to do by the constitution and canons of the general convention.

8. In all matters which shall come before the convention, the clergy and laity shall deliberate in one body; and in voting, the clergy shall vote by indivi-

duals, and the laity by congregations: but if in any case it be required by two votes, the two orders shall vote separately, and a concurrence shall be necessary to constitute a decision.

9. The election of a Bishop of this diocese shall be made in convention in the following manner: The order of the clergy shall nominate and appoint, by ballot, some fit and qualified clergyman for that office —and if this appointment be approved of by the lay order, he shall be declared duly elected. In the above mentioned nomination and appointment, a majority of each order shall determine the choice; provided that two thirds of all the clergy intitled to votes be present, and two thirds of all the congregations intitled to votes be represented, otherwise two thirds of the votes of each order shall be necessary to determine the choice.

10. This constitution may be altered or amended by a concurrent vote of two thirds of the attending members, at any annual meeting of the convention.

[Signed] BETHEL JUDD,
Rector of St. John's Church, Fayetteville.
ADAM EMPIE,
Rector of St. James' Church, Wilmington.
J. CURTIS CLAY,
Rector of Christ's Church, Newbern.
JOHN WINSLOW,
Lay Delegate from St. John's Church, Fayetteville.
MARSDEN CAMPBELL,
JOHN R. LONDON,
Lay Delegates from St. James' Church, Wilmington.
JOHN STANLY,
JOHN S. WEST,
Lay Delegates from Christ's Church, Newbern.
JOSIAH COLLINS, Jun.
Representative from St. Paul's Church, Edenton.

The preceding constitution having been unanimously adopted and signed, the Rev. Mr. Judd was

duly elected President, and the Rev. Mr. Empie, Secretary, for the ensuing year. The following gentlemen were chosen, also, to compose the standing committee—of the clergy, the Rev. Mr. Judd, Mr. Clay and Mr. Empie; and of the laity, Messrs. John S. West of Newbern, John Winslow of Fayetteville, John B. Blount of Edenton, and Marsden Campbell of Wilmington.

On motion, *Resolved*, That a copy of the Constitution now adopted, together with the proceedings of this Convention, be, by the Secretary, certified to the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States, with a request, that, agreeably to the fifth article of the Constitution, the Protestant Episcopal Church, in this State, may be recognized and admitted to representation.

Resolved, That the right Rev. R. C. Moore, the Bishop of Virginia, be invited to visit and perform the Episcopal offices in this State, agreeably to the 20th canon of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States.

Resolved, That the President of the Convention present this invitation to the right Rev. Bishop Moore, together with a copy of the Constitution and proceedings of the Convention.

Resolved, That the Rev. Mr. Judd and Mr. Moses Jarvis of Newbern be appointed Delegates to the ensuing general Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States.

Resolved, That the next annual Convention be holden at Fayetteville.

Adjourned until 4 o'clock.

Met pursuant to adjournment. The preceding minutes were read and approved.

On motion, *Resolved*, that the Secretary cause 200 copies of the Constitution to be printed, and that he distribute the same, equally, among the congregations here represented.

Resolved, That it is expedient that the rectors of the several Churches cause an annual collection, in their respective Churches, for the support of a Missionary in this State; and that the same be a fund subject to the order of the Convention.

Resolved, That the Rev. Mr. Clay be a committee to select or to draw up such canons as he may deem most expedient, and to report the same to the next convention.

(Signed) BETHEL JUDD,
President of the Convention.

Attested,

ADAM EMPIE, *Secretary.*